



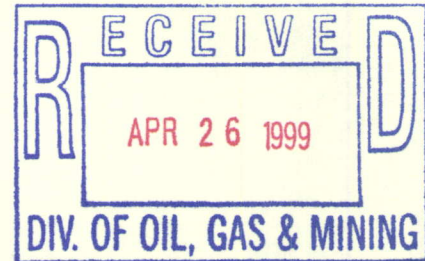
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5/015/078

April 19, 1999

Tony Gallegos
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Dear Mr. Gallegos:

Enclosed please find the report entitled "Cultural Resource Inventories of the Black Knight and Black Butte Mine Sites, Emery County, Utah." These inventories resulted in no cultural or paleontological resources. Based on the findings, a determination of "no effect" is recommended for this project pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Montgomery
Principal Investigator

cc: Dan W. Guye, Blackhawk Engineering, Helper, UT
James Dykmann, Compliance Archaeologist, Utah SHPO
Blaine Miller, BLM Archaeologist, Price River R.A.
Kenny Wintch, Archaeologist, Trust Lands Administration

5/015/078

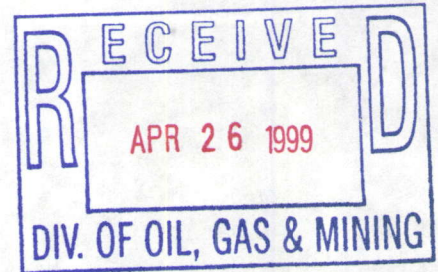
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES OF THE
BLACK KNIGHT AND BLACK BUTTE MINE SITES
EMERY COUNTY, UTAH

by

Keith R. Montgomery

Prepared For:

State of Utah
School and Institutional
Trust Lands Administration
and
Bureau of Land Management
Price River Resource Area Office
Moab District



Prepared Under Contract With:

Blackhawk Engineering, Inc.
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Prepared By:

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April 19, 1999

United States Department of Interior (FLPMA)
Permit No. 99-UT-60122

State of Utah Antiquities Project (Survey)
Permit No. U-99-MQ-0155b,s

INTRODUCTION

In April, 1999, cultural resource inventories were conducted by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (MOAC) for the proposed Black Knight Mine and Black Butte Mine sites in Emery County, Utah. The archaeological surveys were implemented at the request of Dan W. Guy, President of Blackhawk Engineering, Inc., Helper, Utah. The inventory areas occur on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Price River Resource Area (Moab District) and State of Utah, School and Institutional, Trust Lands Administration property.

The objective of the inventories were to locate, document, and evaluate any cultural resources within the project area. Also, the inventory was implemented to attain compliance with a number of federal and state mandates, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological and Historic Conservation Act of 1972, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, and the Utah State Antiquities Act of 1973 (amended 1990).

The fieldwork was performed by Keith R. Montgomery on April 15, 1999, under the auspices of U.S.D.I. (FLPMA) Permit No. 99-UT-60122 and State of Utah Antiquities Permit (Survey) No. U-99-MQ-0155b,s issued to Montgomery Archaeological Consultant, Moab, Utah. A file search for previous surveys and documented archaeological sites was performed by the author at the BLM Price River Resource Area Office (April 15, 1999). This consultation indicated that north of the proposed Black Knight Mine site an inventory was completed by the University of Utah Archaeological Center for the Kaiser Steel South Lease Mine property (Rauch 1981). A number of prehistoric and historic sites were documented during this project including a test excavation at a rockshelter with Fremont and Numic components (42Em1343). No previously-documented cultural resources are situated within the immediate project areas.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

Black Knight Mine Site

The proposed Black Knight Mine site is located about 5 miles northeast of Woodside, Utah. The legal description is Township 17 South, Range 14 East, Section 16 (Figure 1). This parcel consists of a 7.3 acre rectangular block (800 by 400 feet), and a 1000 foot long (3.4 acres) access road. A total of 0.7 acres was surveyed for this proposed mine site. The ownership status is the State of Utah, Trust Land Administration (TLA). This inventory area occurs along a steep-sided narrow ridge just east of Marsh Flat Wash. At an elevation of 5000 feet, the area supports a Desert Shrub Association consisting of shadscale, mat saltbrush, tamarisk, Indian ricegrass, and prickly pear cactus.

Modern impacts to the landscape include livestock grazing and a two-track road. No cultural resources were identified in the project area.

Black Butte Mine Site

The proposed Black Butte Mine site is located approximately 7 miles north of the town of Green River, Utah. The legal description is Township 19 South, Range 14 East, Sections 26, 34, and 35 (BLM, Price River Resource Area), and Section 36 (State of Utah, TLA), Figure 2. This inventory area consists of a 7.3 acre rectangular parcel (800 by 400 feet), and a 3.1 mile long (55.8 acres) access road which extends from US-191 to the proposed mine site. The topography is characterized by highly dissected boulder sewn ridges and rolling shale lowlands. The elevation of the survey area ranges from 4600 to 4760 feet. The vegetation cover includes shadscale, sagebrush, mat saltbrush, snakeweed, and prickly pear cactus. Surface impacts include the D&RGW railroad, a power line, roads, and livestock grazing. No cultural resources were found on in this inventory area.

In general, the project area lies within the Book Cliffs-Roan Plateau Physiographic Subdivision of the Colorado Plateau (Stokes 1986). The Book Cliffs form an almost continuous cliff face along the Tavaputs Plateau, broken by the canyon cut through the plateau by the Price River on its way to join the Green River. The Beckwith Plateau dominates the southern portion of the study area with several prominent canyons which descent from the plateau uplands to join the Green River in Gray Canyon. The geology of the project area is composed of Cretaceous period deposits which date from 144 to an estimated 78 million years ago (Ibid 1986:131). The lowlands west of the Book Cliffs consists of the Blue Gate shale member of the Mancos Shale group which are mainly marine sediments. The Cretaceous age rocks yield a notable record of both continental and marine vertebrates with fish remains represented chiefly by scales and teeth. Permanent water sources in the area consist of the Price River and Green River. Various intermittent drainages cross the area including Marsh Flat Wash, Lost Spring Wash and Camel Wash.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The archaeologist was accompanied to the field by Blackhawk Engineering personnel who delineated the inventory areas. An intensive or 100% survey coverage was conducted by the archaeologist. At each of the mine parcels, the author walked a series of parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters (30 feet apart). The access routes were inspected by walking parallel and zig-zag transects along a 150 foot corridor, spaced no more than 10 meters apart. A total of 73.8 acres was inspected at the Black Knight and Black Butte mine sites. This included 50.3 acres on public lands administered by the BLM Price River Resource Area (Moab District), and 23.5 acres on State of Utah Trust Lands Administration property.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The inventory of the proposed Black Knight Mine Site and Black Butte Mine Site resulted in no cultural or paleontological resources. Based on the findings, a determination of "no effect" to Section 106, CFR 800 is recommended for these project areas.

REFERENCES CITED

Rauch, Rebecca

- 1981 A Cultural Resource Inventory of the Kaiser Steel Corporation South Lease Mine Property and a Test Excavation (42Em1343) in Emery County, East Central Utah. University of Utah Archeological Center, Salt Lake City.

Stokes, William Lee

- 1986 Geology of Utah. Utah Museum of Natural History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.